3. The substitution of the word 'may' for 'shall' in para 4 of Section 8, is a mere verbal alteration.

4. I have added a new section numbered as Section 18 A. This is done to bring about finality in the matter of the presentation and disposal of claims.

5. In Sections 19 and 21, I have proposed mere verbal alterations.

6. I have added a new section numbered as Section 21 A. This new Section imposes a duty upon certain classes of persons to render help to the Forest department in the matter of the conservation of forests. I may assure you that this provision is not likely to impose any duty that cannot be reasonably expected from the classes of persons on whom it is imposed.

7. In Section 22, I have added two more clauses. They relate merely to the departmental working of the Regulation.

8. In Section 33, I have added a clause at the end of clause (1) of the Section, which is meant simply to explain that clause, and have also added two other clauses referring to the use of property-mark for timber and to the maintenance and safeguarding of the channels and banks of rivers used for the transit of timber or other forest produce. I have no doubt you will all agree with me in considering that these clauses are very necessary.

9. In Section 38, I have proposed a slight amendment with regard to the articles or things used in committing forest offences.

10. In Sections 44, 51 and 55, I have suggested mere verbal alterations.

11. I have recast Section 58 of the Regulation whereby any grantee of land is made to pay for all trees and timber found on such land, before he begins cultivation thereon. This proposal not only conserves forest revenue but also helps the grantee, inasmuch as he ascertains the exact amount that he has to pay, and there cannot thereafter be any dispute between the Forest department and himself.

12. In Section 59, I have added a new clause whereby evidence recorded under the provisions of this Section may be utilised in a court of law. This is a new provision, and is found in the British Act. It saves the production of witnesses in Courts from long distances and away from the scene of offence, as well as the time of the Court.

With these few words, I beg to introduce the amending Bill for the consideration and acceptance of the Council.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Ananda Row proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Vieyra, Sri Narayanan Tampi and the Mover to report within one month.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—Sir, I have the honor to introduce a Bill to provide for the adoption of a uniform system of weights and measures throughout Travancore. Leave was granted to me to introduce a Bill for the purpose, at the meeting of the Council held on the 30th November 1908. The Bill has been duly published in the Gazette and copies circulated among the Members, and the Statement of Objects and Reasons briefly explains its provisions. There is no general principle to be explained at length, and I will only offer a few words of explanation in regard to the several clauses of the Bill, although there appears to be little to add to the remarks in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

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The object of the Bill is to supply the want of authorised weights and measures, which has led to disputes and to complaints of frauds in dealings between purchasers and sellers of goods, and thereby to create a certainty of feeling that each person gets his money's worth of goods and is not cheated. The measure is introduced in conformity with the wishes of the people as reflected in the representations made by the delegates elected by the people at the successive sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, and will, I feel sure, if passed into law, provide means which will prevent the ignorant and unsuspecting masses from being cheated of their dues by unscrupulous traders. The Bill is based on principles which have already been accepted and adopted in civilized countries for securing an identical object, and a similar one was very near being passed into law by this Council nearly five years ago. I therefore take it that there will be very little difference of opinion as to the necessity or reasonableness of the provisions of the Bill and that it will meet with the support, which the circumstances which have led to its preparation call for at the hands of the Members of this Council.

Section 2 of the Bill is the most important section. It lays down the primary standards on which a system of weights and measures is to be constructed. My reasons for preferring the standards which I have embodied in this Section to those which appear to have been suggested by this Council in the course of the discussion on the Bill introduced by Mr. Rajaram Rao, to which reference has already been made, are set forth in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. They commend themselves to me alike on account of their simplicity and familiarity to the general public as well as on account of the very little interference they involve with the existing conditions in the State. Other systems there may be which are perhaps scientifically more accurate and which better accord with the systems in force in the adjoining territories; but the object of the present Bill being merely to introduce a set of weights and measures for general adoption and to penalise the use of those which are not so authorised, none can, in my opinion, claim acceptance more than those which enter into the daily transactions of the people at present and with which they are therefore most acquainted.

Section 3 treats of the units of weights and measures based on the standards dealt with in Section 2.

Section 4 is intended to obviate the inconvenience which might obviously follow the adoption of a uniform system throughout the whole State, and power is thereby reserved to Government to declare the magnitude and denomination of the weights and measures other than those authorised for use by the preceding Sections.

Section 5 prohibits the use of weights and measures and instruments for weighing other than those authorised under the Regulation.

Sections 6 to 9 form the adjective part of the Regulation. They deal with the manner in which the substantive portions of the Regulation shall be given effect to. Power is taken to Government to make rules consistent with the Regulation for the carrying out of the provisions of the Regulation.

Section 10 deals with the penalty with which counterfeiting the marks employed for denoting the authorised weights and measures may be visited. Offences against the other provisions of the Regulation are punishable under Chapter XIII of the Penal Code and are therefore not separately provided for.

I now ask that the Bill be taken up for consideration at once and that its principle be affirmed in Council.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Sankara Menon proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Vieyra, Subramania Iyer and the Mover to report within one month.

The motion was put and agreed to.

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